

Eagles Double Their Pleasure Against South, Return to Playoffs



Nigel Nootbaar was masterful, tossing a one-hitter against South Torrance. Photo by Bob Schaffhauser.

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo baseball team won 18 games in 2008, but failed to make the playoffs for just the third time since 1985. This year however, the Eagles are 21-8 and placed second in the Pioneer League to earn a trip to the CIF Southern Section playoffs for the 43rd time in head coach John Stevenson's 50 years at the helm. The Eagles guaranteed their spot in the expanded playoff format by defeating South Torrance 8-0 and 11-7. For the Eagles, it was a measure of revenge against a Spartan squad that swept El Segundo last year and kept the only 18-win team out of the playoffs.

The Eagles scored runs in each of the first

five innings and built an 8-0 lead to topple a team that has become a baseball rival. The Eagles sent Nigel Nootbaar to the mound, and all the sophomore did is pick up where he left off against Lawndale by throwing a one-hitter to a team that had been running up scores on the rest of the Pioneer League.

The Eagles' lineup has been on fire as of late and came out swinging again by pounding out 11 hits, including five doubles and two home runs. Logan Erickson led the attack by going 3-for-3 with a single, double and his second home run of the season; he boosted his batting average to .398 on the year. Erickson's bat is coming alive at a great time, much like many of the Eagles' hitters are. The senior designated hitter has been driving the ball to the gaps more this year, which has generated a higher batting average that has hovered above .350 for most of the season. "I'm seeing the ball a lot better now," Erickson said.

Another Eagle hitting his stride is senior first baseman Richard Seigel. Once a promising pitcher before an injury slowed him, he is now a mainstay at first base where he has become a defensive standout. But where Seigel is really making an impact is with his bat. He is hitting .375 on the year and is 11-for-23 over the past six games as a starter. Against South he had two hits, including a double, and also scored once. Seigel has

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Girls and Boys Finish in Top 10 of CIF Division III Swimming Finals



Max Reynolds launches over Bradley Rava during the 200 Free Relay final where El Segundo took fourth. Lead off was Ryan Makuta and the anchor leg was Corby Cordobes. Photos by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com.

By George Harris, Jr.

The 2009 El Segundo High School swim team fared quite well in the CIF Division III prelims and finals held at last Thursday and Saturday, May 14 and 16 at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut (the change of venue thanks to pool leak at the Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach). Although the site was outdoors and not as familiar to the indoor Urho Saari Swimming Stadium, nothing but personal bests were recorded by the "Blue and Gold." The Lady Eagles finished a solid sixth, while the Boys tied for 10th place with Desert Valley League champion Palm Springs.

Sophomores Ryan Makuta and Kelsey Cummings were the leading scorers for

ESHS in the finals. Makuta finished second in the 200 Free and third in the 100 Free in leading "The Men of Main" to a fourth place finish in 200 Free Relay. Cummings finished fourth in the 200 Free and third in the 500. He contributed points in the 200 Medley Relay and led off the 400 Free Relay.

The "Mermaids of Main" received timely performances from junior Julianne Allison as she placed 12th in the 100 Fly and then smoked the field with a sixth place finish in the 100 Back. Allison and fellow junior Courtney Rava, together with sophomore cousins Colette Gulick and Cummings, took fifth in 200 Medley Relay. The same quartet came back to finish fourth in the 400 Free

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